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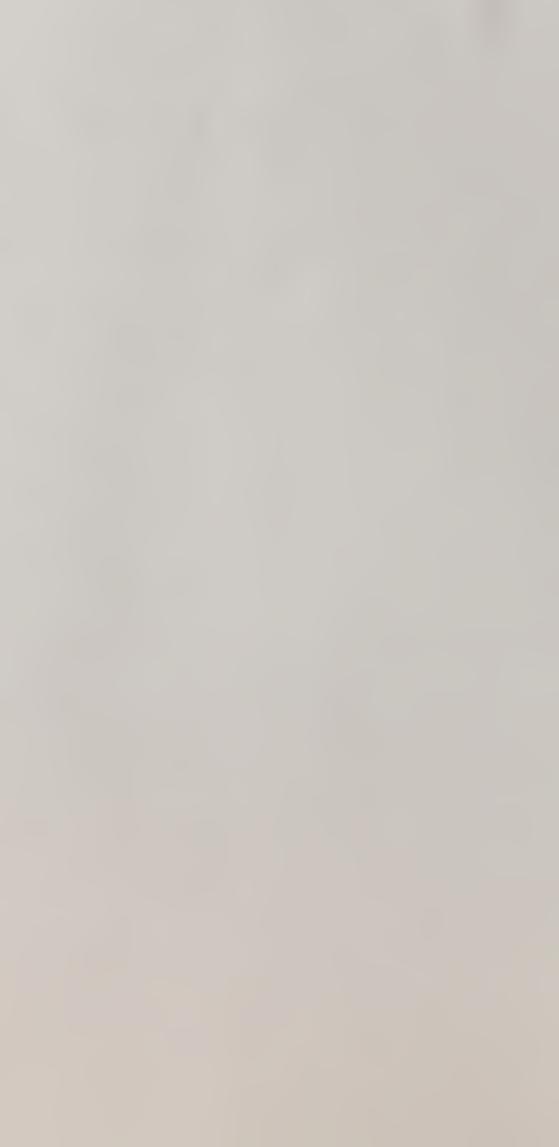
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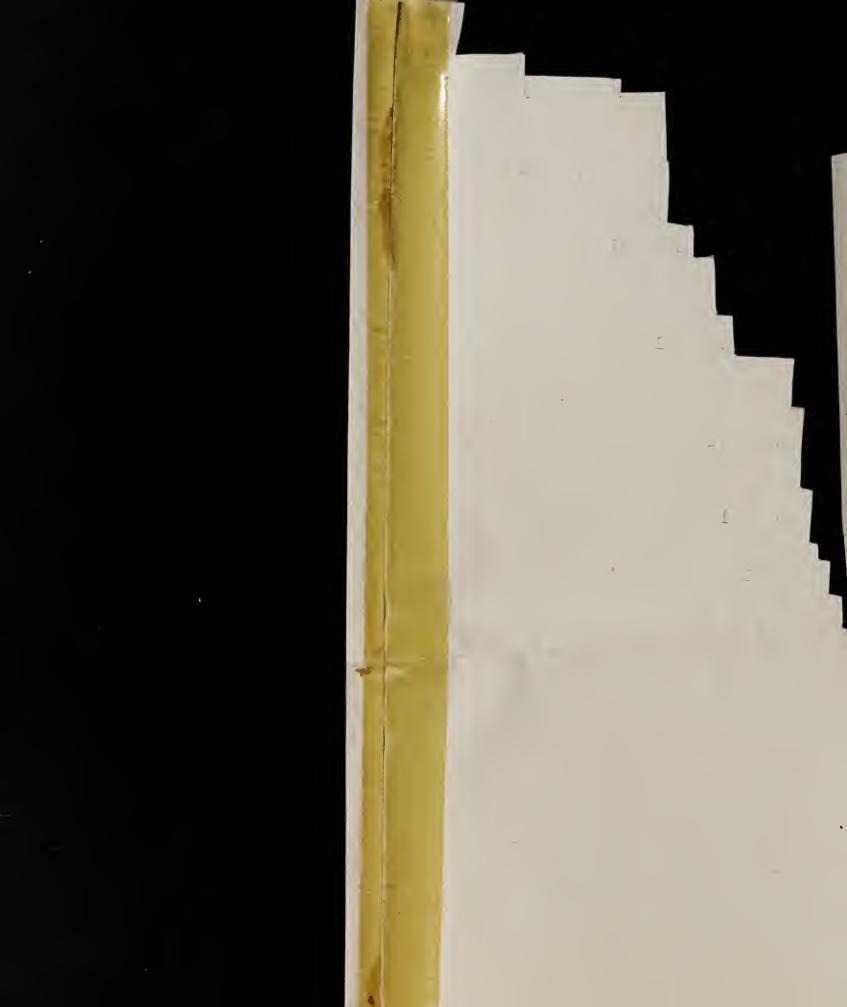
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Final Field Report Brd Tamaulipus Anchaeologuel Ex Dec 1453 - May 1454

Before discussing the results of the third Tamaulipas Archaeological Expedition of 1948-1949 it seems appropriate to first restate the purposes of these investigations. Briefly the problem studied was "the development of agriculture and concomitant development of civilization in Meso-America."

The area selected was southern Tamaulipas. A The was was chosen for three reasons: first, it was sufficiently far north in Meso-America to be in the dry semi-desert area where preservation of archaeological material is excellent; secondly, the area is composed of limestone and mountains thereby containing numerous dry caves which were inhabitable and, also, allowed for preservation of the remains of any habitations, and finally, previous archaeological excavations in Tamaulipas had revealed a part of which could be tried into the remains of any habitations. Of these reasons the final requirements one was the most important.

Since these previous excavations were of such importance in the defining of the problem and in the selection of the area and since the results of the these performance expeditions tie in with them, I shall briefly review them.



These investigations had occurred in the dry Sierra de Tamaulipas about 120 miles northwest of Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Eleven small excavations had been made. Six of the sites excavated (Tm c 81, 82, 83, 174 and Tm 79 and 86) were stratified—that is they had two or more different human occupations, one above the other, while the five remaining testings were in sites that seem to represent a single period of occupation. The earliest human remains consisted of four kinds of artifacts, big blades, side scrapers, large choppers and large boulder scrapers, in and under the high terrace gravels in one cave (Im c 81). This ill-defined culture assemblage called the Diablo complex and the rather meager geological evidence indicates that these remains may be in late Pleistocene and/be more than 11,000 years old. Since such remains are stratigraphically the fourth culture below one dated by Carbon 14 as being 4,445 years old, such an early date does not seem improbable. The next culture in the sequence is called the Lerma Focus and remains of it were found in terra Yosa soils just above the gravels in Tm c 81 and in the lowest layers of La Perra Cave (Tm c 174). This cultural manifestation is represented by a richer inventory of tools that include \ ouble-pointed projectile

points; snub-nosed, stemmed, and large plano-convex endscrapers; large and small flake side-scrapers: ovoid and square-based blades, and large choppers. Occupations seem to have been short and by small groups, while the variety of tools found indicate that hunting was of considerable importance. Dating of these remains &re not on a very secure basis but there is good evidence (zoological and soil analysis) to indicate that the people lived during a wet period and that this wet period was before a dry period which was before the Carbon 14 date of 4,445 years ago. I have estimated that this occupation occurred in the Anathermal period some 7,000 to 9,000 years ago but such is entirely based upon the assumption that the wet and dry period of Tamaulipas are the same as those in the southwestern United States. The Nogales Focus materials occurred above these Lerma remains in Diablo Cave (Tm c 81) as well as in the bottom layers of Nogales Cave (Tm c 82). Nogales remains also have been found on the surface of about fifteen sites that were found in the survey in northern Tamaulipas up to the Rio Grande. Artifacts in this complex are numerous and characterized by leaf-shaped and sub-triangular points, gouges, disc scrapers, disc choppers, mortars, big blades and a wide variety of crude scraping tools. Occupations seem to have been by fairly large bands and of a

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semi-permanent nature while the mortar fragments seem to have indicated that food-gathering (as well as hunting) was of considerable importance. Wartifact trends and similarities indicate that this Nogales Focus developed into one called the La Perra Focus. This was particularly apparent at Nogales caves where Nogales remains were directly underneath those of the La Perra' complex. However, it was the middle levels (2-3) of the La Perra cave (Im c 174) that really gave us a more complete view of this ancient material culture complex as these layers contained much well-preserved vegetable materials and food remains. Stone artifacts included concaved-based triangular points as well as sub-triangular and leaf-shaped ones, the disc scrapers and flake side-scrapers, large chipped disc choppers and hammerstones, mortars and pebble manos and boulder metates. Perishable artifacts included maquey string, atlatl mainshafts, full turned coiled netting, coiled basketry, pointed sticks, and checker and twilled woven mats. Food remains revealed these people to have been mainly food collectors (86% of the remains found were wild plant or insect remains) who did some hunting (10%), Stand a little 1. 1 while/the agriculture products corn and squash remains represented less than 4% of the food remains. Since the

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earliest corn was primitive pod-pop types (called Early Nat-tel AnB) directly ancestral to the most primitive of the modern Maya race Nat-tel and since these were dated of as 4,445 years ago, it appeared possible that early wellpreserved, La Perra or Nogales remains could possibly have more primitive still early corn types and perhaps some wild maize, these remains led directly to our consideration of the problem of the domestication of maize and the development of agriculture in Meso-America. Following the La Perra Focus (perhaps after some considerable time) was the Laguna This kind of remains occurred in the upper level of La Perra Cave, Layer 3 of Tm c 82, Levels 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the ruin Tm 786 as well a number of single period ruins throughout the Sierra de Tamaulipas. (Tm 788, 172, 197, 196 etc.)

La Perra. It seems to be fairly similar to late formative remains throughout Meso-America, and on the basis of a host of traits to be intimately connected with Ekholm's El Prisco (Period II) remains at Panuco. A hote of new traits occur including pottery, El Prisco type figurines, stemmed and notched projectile points, manos and metates, lamellar flakes, loom-woven cotton, string made by a spindle whorl, and a whole series of architectural features including

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pyramids, masonry house platforms, ball courts, etc. Food remains reveal these people to have been basically agriculturists with over 50% of their diet being corn, beans, and squash. The corn, through including some of the older types, had modern Nal-tel (like the Mayas still use) and two hybrid types Dzia-Bacal and Breve de Padilla. The problem of how these new corn types were derived and how the cultural transition from La Perra to Laguna occurred was most perplexing. It was hoped that if the culture complexes (including preserved food remains) that existed between the La Perra and Laguna Foci could be found, then this problem might be solved. The cultures us, manely, the following the Laguna Foci, Eslabones, and La Salta There for and they focus, developments from Laguna, and Los Angeles, a late intrusive mobiling representing the mulerial alter of the Pasitos tribe, complex, need not concern us here for they are not directly detroise connected with the solution of our problem.

Thus, from the standpoint of the practical solution of the problem of domestication of maize and development of high culture in at least one part of Meso-America, it appears that it was necessary to find and excavate components of the culture ancestral to La Perra) or a La Perra-like culture, further excavate La Perra or La Perra-like remains, and finally, to discover and dig those cultural complexes between

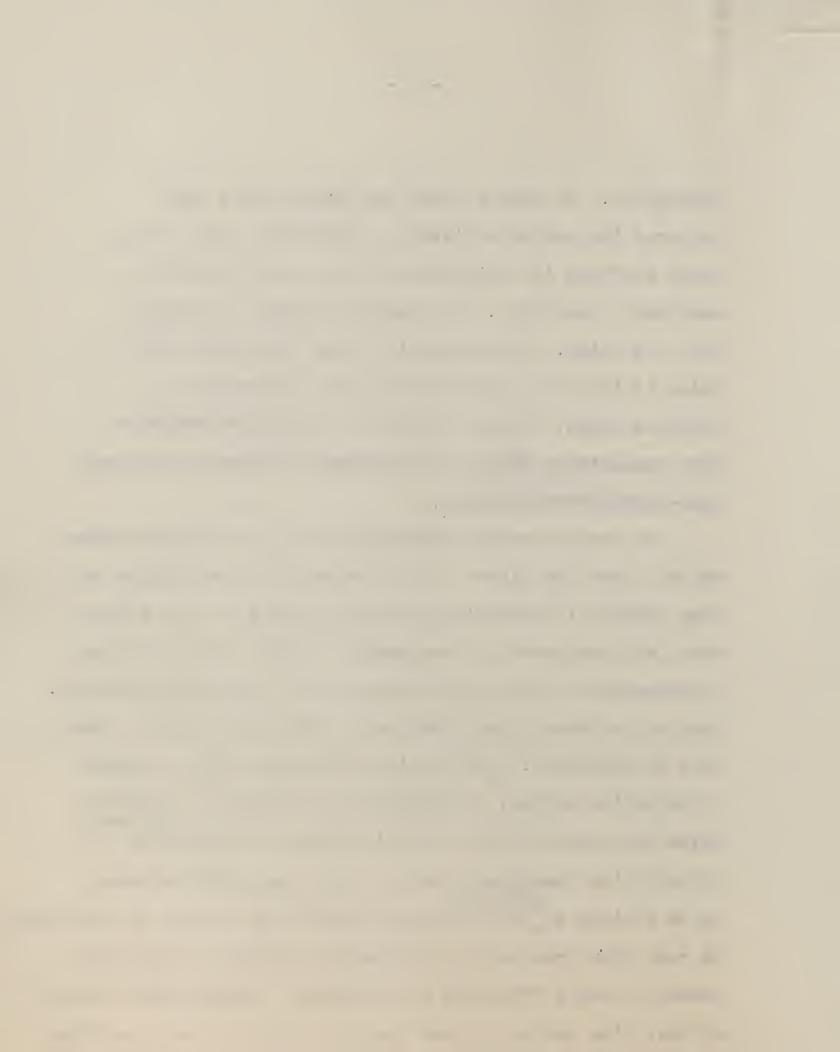
La Perra and Laguna. The logical place to find such the seemed to be in southern Tamaulipas near our 1949 excavations, and the probable place for finding such was work shelters or caves where preserved remains usually occur. This was a big order but not an impossible one.

To do this job it was felt that first a rather complete survey should be made of southern Tanaulipas and that the survey should concentrate on discovering dry caves. After dry caves with preserved human materials were located, it was planned to excavate them and then analysis of the materials would be made. Exactly how much of this could be done in a single season we did not know, and the best we hoped for was that we might be able to find a few dry caves in the first season and excavate them, leaving the analysis for another season, but it was not impossible that the survey, excavation, and analysis would each take one season, when the property is analysis would each take one season, when the analysis would each take one season.

To do the survey David Kelley, a Harvard graduate student, and Peter Pratt, a graduate of the University of Toronto, were hired as assistants. Also a volunteer, Peter Grant, an amateur archaeologist from Winnipeg, Manitoba, joined the party. My wife also joined the party as a photographer and field supervisor. This group, starting in December, began a systematic survey of southern

-1 ٠ Tamaulipas. In actual fact, one group with a jeep explored the southern Sierra de Tamaulipas, while the other confined its activities to the Sierra Madre in southwest Tamaulipas. The survey collected materials from 129 sites. These materials and information were added to the 220 sites that had been discovered in previous years, giving a total of 349, but it was farfrom complete, as parly in our survey we tested five caves that seemed worth digging.

The archaeological reconnaissance of the Sierra Madre netted sixty-six sites. Six of these sites were ruins that were similar to Ekholm's El Prisco (Period II) and yielded about 400 potsherds, 23 projectile points, four figurines, 3 fragments of manos and metates, and a few other artifacts. Beside the ruins three caves were tested that had the same kind of materials. Our testings uncovered only 45 sherds, 8 projectile points, 11 fragments of blades and scrapers. A Pouce Ruins with remains like Ekholm's Zaquil (IV) phase, or Du Solier'rs Buenavista remains were much more frequent as we visited 26 and collected about 8,000 sherds, 25 figurines, 51 clay pipe fragments, 38 projectile points, as well as a number of other fragments of artifacts. Eleven rock shelters of this time period yielded about 32 sherds as well as flint



blades and projectile point fragments. Along the edges of the Sierra Madre, 9 Panuco (Ekholm's VI) period ruins occurred from which we took about 3,000 sherds, 5 pipes, 4 figurines, 75 lamellar flakes, 18 projectile points, and a number of other objects. Beside these single period sites with pottery, there were three ruins that appeared to have stratigraphy. About 850 sherds came from these sites as well as a few figurines (14), pipes (21), projectile points (9), lamellar flakes (7), and other objects. Two small open camp sites occurred with about 32 projectile points, 18 scrapers, 60 sherds, and other flint tools. Twelve other caves were visited but artifacts (less than 1000) were so scarce that they could not be classified as to period, nor were they worth digging. Four caves were, however, found to have definite stratigraphy and three of them had preserved vegetable remains.

Besides the 30 caves found in the reconnaissance, 22

were visited but found to contain no cultural remains

and we heard of about 50 more that for one reason or another

were not examined. Thus out of about 100 caves only the

three with stratigraphy and preserved materials were exampled.

These three will be described in a later part of

this paper.

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In the Sierra de Tamaulipas, 63 sites were visited. Fifteen of them were Laguna Focus ruins with about 3,000 sherds, 42 projectile points, 2 celts, 4 figurines, and blade and scraper fragments. Three more with about 65 sherds, 12 projectile points and 6 blade fragments belonged to Eslabones Focus while one with about 18 sherds might be of the La Salta Focus. One site occurred that may be stratified with Laguna materials over an as yet undefined earlier ceramic complex. Here about 400 sherds occurred as well as four fragments of figurines, five projectile points, and eleven blade fragments. Beside these ruins about 1,000 sherds and 50 projectile points were collected from ten ruins and two camps that may belong to either the Laguna or Eslabones or La Salta complexes. Two ruins and a camp with about 300 sherds assignable to the Panuco Period (VI) occurred on the coast near the Sierra de Tamaulipas. About 200 sherds, four 4 projectile points, eleven scrapers, and a number of blade fragments were collected at open camps belonging to the Los Angeles Focus while four caves Mad about 100 sherds and three points of similar materials. Three camp sites, with about 52 projectile points, 75 blades, 14 scrapers, and 4 choppers belonged to the La Perra Focus, while one with about 9 points, 4 blades, and 7 scrapers, belonged to

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the Nogales Focus and one with two points seems to be of the Almagre Focus. Five camp sites with about 50 sherds and 20 points could not be classified. Six caves were visited that had a few artifacts (about 20 sherds and 5 points) also were unclassified, and about 15 caves were visited that contained no signs of human habitation. Four caves did have evidence of stratigraphy and two of these which we excapated had some preserved vegetable materials.

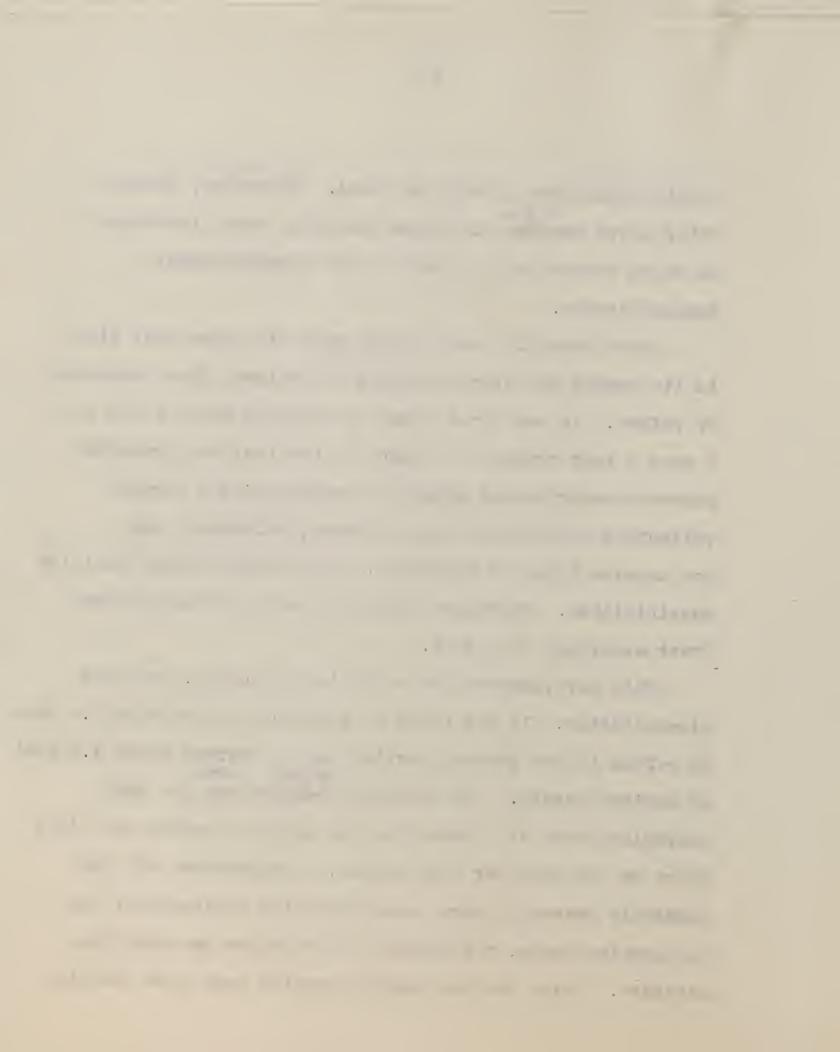
In summary, 129 sites were found in survey, including 54 cave sites. About 40 more caves were visited and we heard of over 75 more which were not visited. Of these sites one ruin was tested, 3 caves dug with vegetable materials but which added little to the solution of our problems, while but two had pertinent materials. Rough counts of the survey material revealed that about 18,000 sherds, 332 projectile points, 189 blades, 82 pipes, 55 figurines, 50 scrapers, 25 manos and metates, 6 mortars, 4 choppers, 3 celts, and about 500 other objects were collected.

Since the Sierra de Tamaulipas was better known and since we had established a long sequencethere, it was expected that in this region some of the answers to our

. -----. - 0 9 after Cueva Humacka and Cueve Armadillo were discovered we began excavation in lieu of more archaeological reconnaissance.

Cueve Armadillo was a large cave with some rock fill in its center but along one edge was a level floor composed of refuse. In our first visit to the cave Peter Pratt and I sunk a test trench to a depth of two feet that revealed numerous superimposed lenses of refuse while a surface collection yielded Nogales, La Perra, Eslabones, and Los Angeles types of artifacts. This cave had very definite possibilities. Therefore during the month of March Peter Pratt excavated this cave.

This cave, numbered Tm c 314 in the survey, was most disappointing. It was found to contain not more than 2.6 feet of refuse in its deepest portion and to average about 1.5 feet of ancient debris. The vegetable remains was not deep, averaging about six inches, and its deepest portion was right where we had sunk our test trench. Furthermore, all the vegetable materials were associated with artifacts of the Los Angeles Focus, the latest in our Sierra de Tamaulipas sequence. Below the Los Angeles remains were some Pueblito



(Loguna, Estato mer and La Salta)

materials that in places were over pre-pottery remains of stratignal projection of either the Almagre or La Perra Foci. This was not clear-cut. About 300 sherds occurred with 50 projectile points.

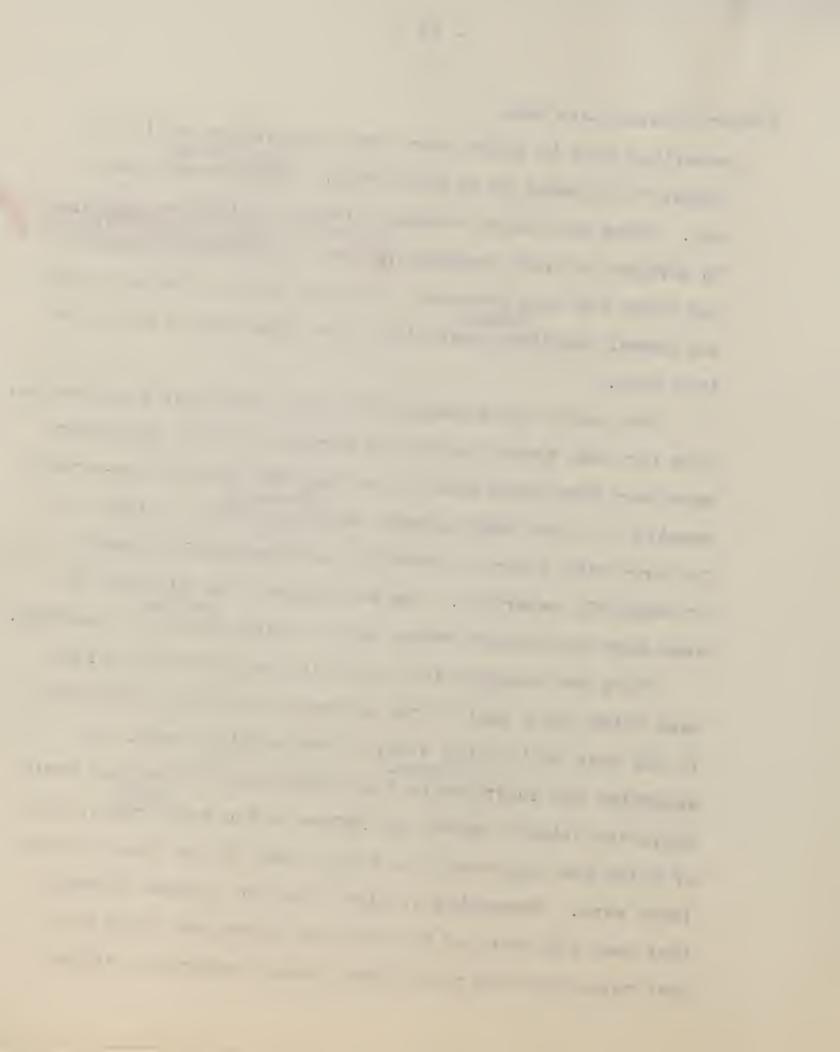
75 scraper or blade fragments, about 5 perishable objects, and about 100 bone fragments. The top level contained about 400 floral specimens including a few specimens of very late type corn.

The nearby Cueva Humada (Tm c 315) was equally misleading. Here our test trench during the survey had shown that there were more than three feet of ash that was full of pre-pottery remains of a new type cultural complex as well as those of La Perra with layers of charcoal and occasional fragments of vegetable materials. The cave looked like it ought to have deep pre-pottery refuse some of which was well preserved.

This was a narrow cave about 15 feet wide and 60 feet deep which had a small nitch of refuse above the main floor in the back wall of the cave, a cave within a cave. I (pur) action

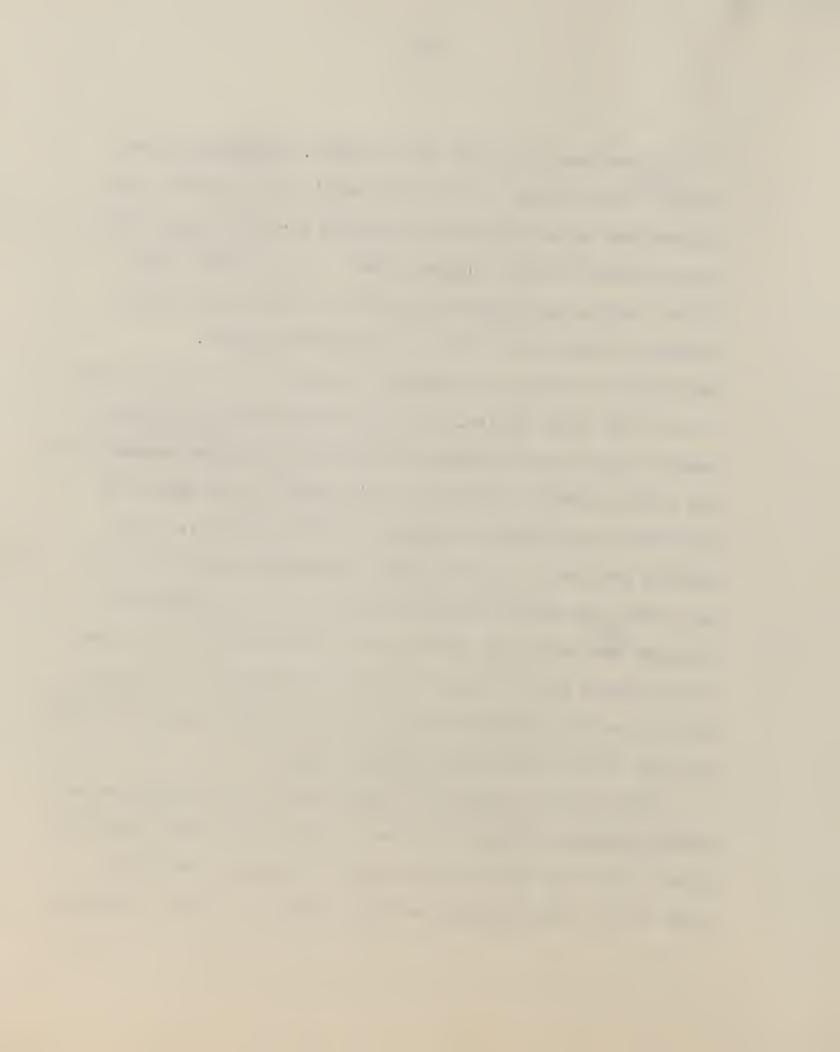
excavated the lower during the later part of March and early (buck)

April and briefly tested the refuse in the upper, cave, much of which had been washed or fallen down on the floor of the lower cave. Excavation of nine five-foot squares revealed that near the mouth of the cave the refuse was about two feet thick but that this refuse became deeper to a depth



of six feet near the back of the cave. However, about three/of the refuse in the back section of the cave was redeposited materials from the upper cave and only the lower three feet were undisturbed. Also, though just enough leaves and sticks occurred to encourage further digging, there was no area of preserved refuse. Preliminary sorting of materials reveal that lowest levels of the cave have typical La Perra refuse which gradually develop into a new complex, called Almagre that occurred in the middle levels, while the upper level is redeposited materials containing a mixture of both cultures. Almagre culture is particularly interesting since it not only adds one more cultural complex to our sequence but because the contracting stemmed points are similar to those of the Pecos River Focus of the Big Bend area of Texas as well as bearing resemblance to those of the earliest pottery culture of this area, the Laguna Focus.

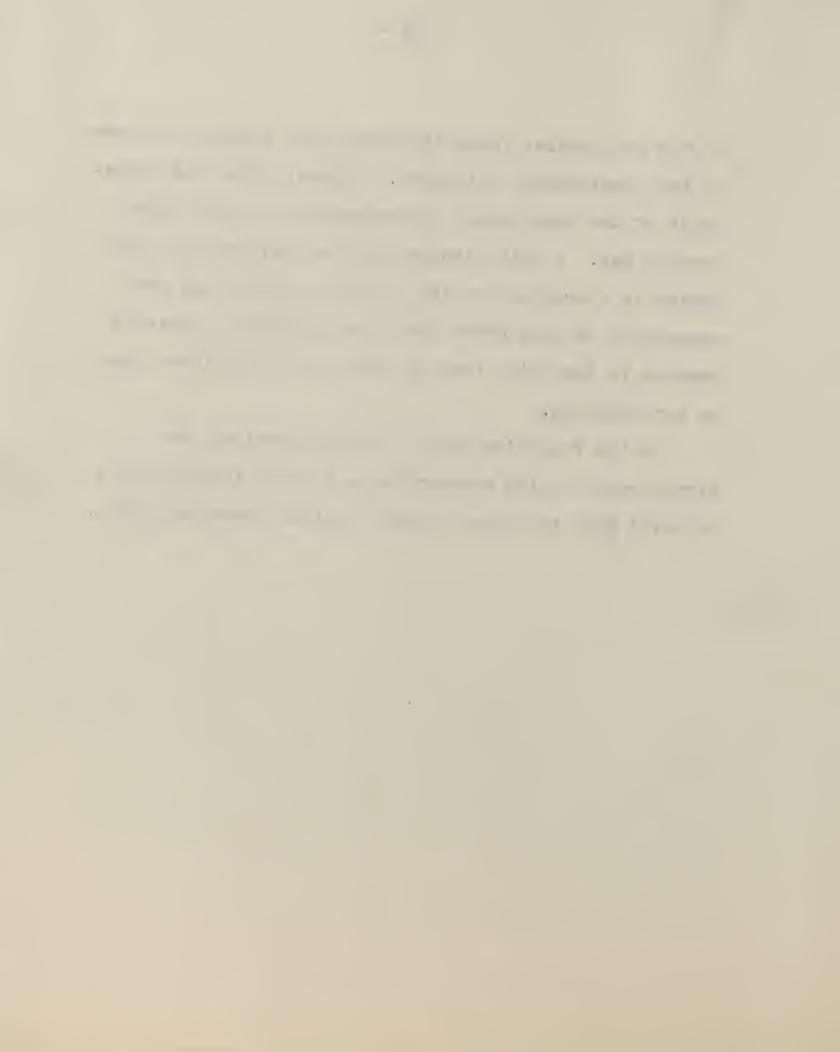
Thus for the Sierra de Tamaulipas the 1953-54 investigation, besides adding 63 sites to the survey, had filled in part of the gap between La Perra and Laguna, confirmed part of the stratigraphy and had given us a fuller picture



of the Los Angeles Focus including food remains and some of the "perishable" artifacts. However, from the standpoint of the development of agriculture, it had added nothing new. I still cannot help but believe that this region is a crucial one and that more survey and more excavation of more caves that have preserved vegetable remains in them will turn up some very significant data on our problems.

On the following chart I have summarized the stratigraphy of the excavations so far and indicated the cultural foci and some of their salient characteristics.

Chart:



While the excavations in the Sierra de Tamaulipas did not come up to expectations, those in the Sierra Madre, just to the southwest, far exceeded anything I had ever hoped for. Here excavations were begun by David Kelley and K during the last week of January and continued to the 19th of April.

The first cave excavated, called Romero's Cave

(Tm c 247), began in January and continued into part of

March and was finished in the second week of April. It

was a very large cave, being at the month about

60 feet wide and fifty feet high, while it extended back a

distance of about 55 feet. The cave was situated at the

base of a high cliff (300 feet high) and was about 1,000

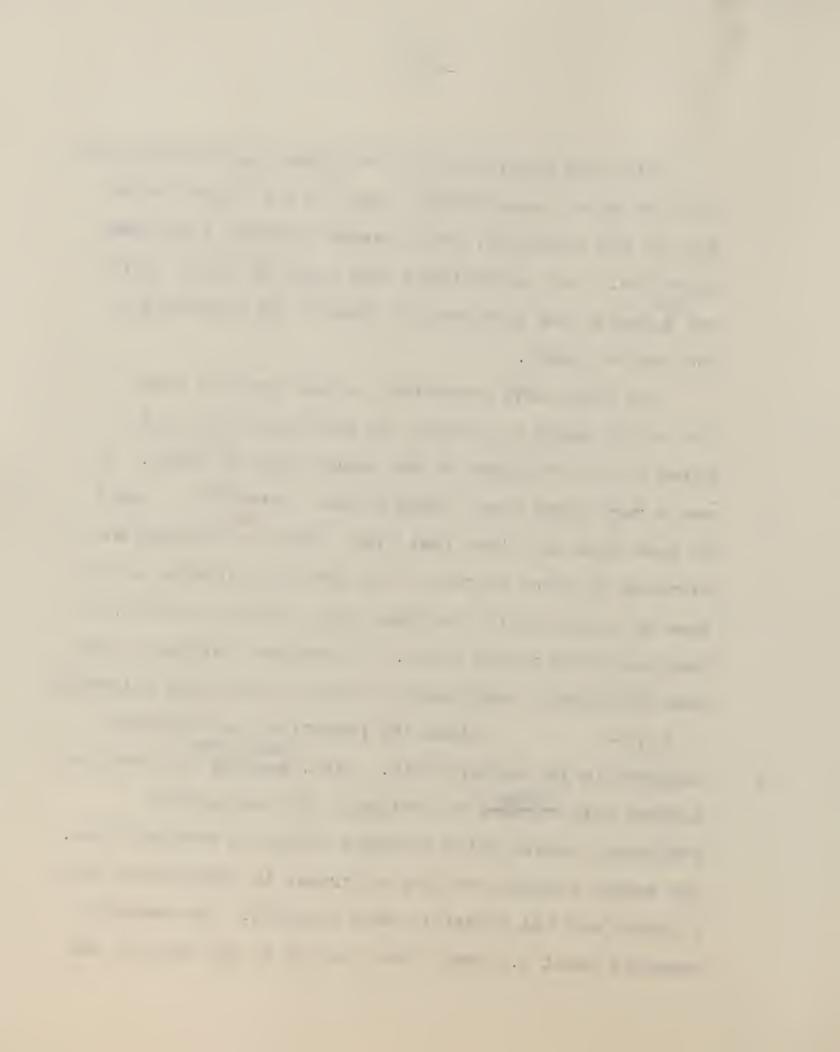
feet above the valley floor. The western portion of the

cave contained a good deal of rock fill that had evidently

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occurred in its eastern half. Here, part of 38 five-foot squares were exhaused by stripping off long, narrow horizontal layers while standing against a vertical face. The actual digging was done by trowel in combination with a shovel, and all materials were screened. The deposits averaged about 3.6 feet thick, though in the back of the



cave in one spot they were almost five feet deep(4.93).

The stratigraphy was somewhat complex as there were 26 superimposed layers composed of either gravel, cave dust, charcoal, ash of various colours, brownish layers of decayed vegetable materials or preserved vegetable materials. Furthermore, a layer that would be thin in one part of the cave was thick in another, and some layers changed from being preserved vegetable layers to carbon, to ash, or visa versa, as we peeled them off. Generally, the earlier layers (Zones D to K) were thick toward the back of the cave and were thin or disappeared to the front, while the later zones (A-C) were thin in back of the cave and got progressively thicker toward the front. However, the separation of one stratum from the next was fairly distinct and fairly easy to peel off, and the field notes and drawn or photographed profiles allow one to discern the sequence of strata and materials without much difficulty. On the following page may be seen a tentative chart and photograph showing the stratigraphy.

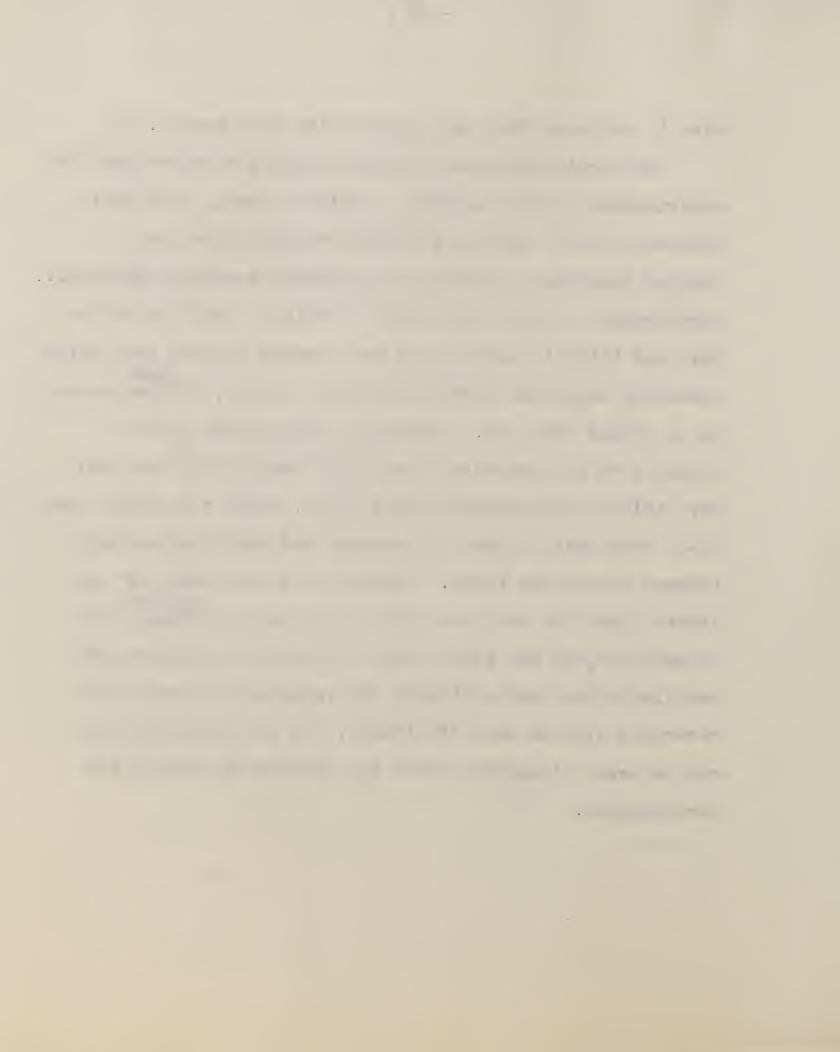
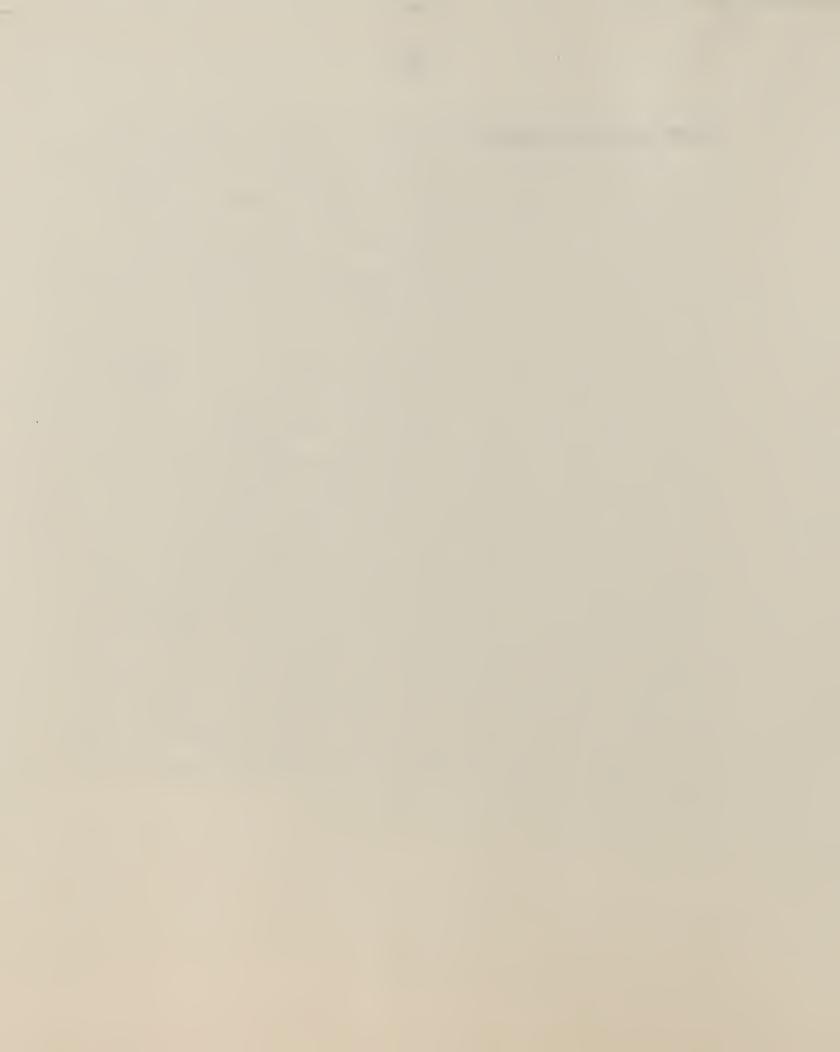
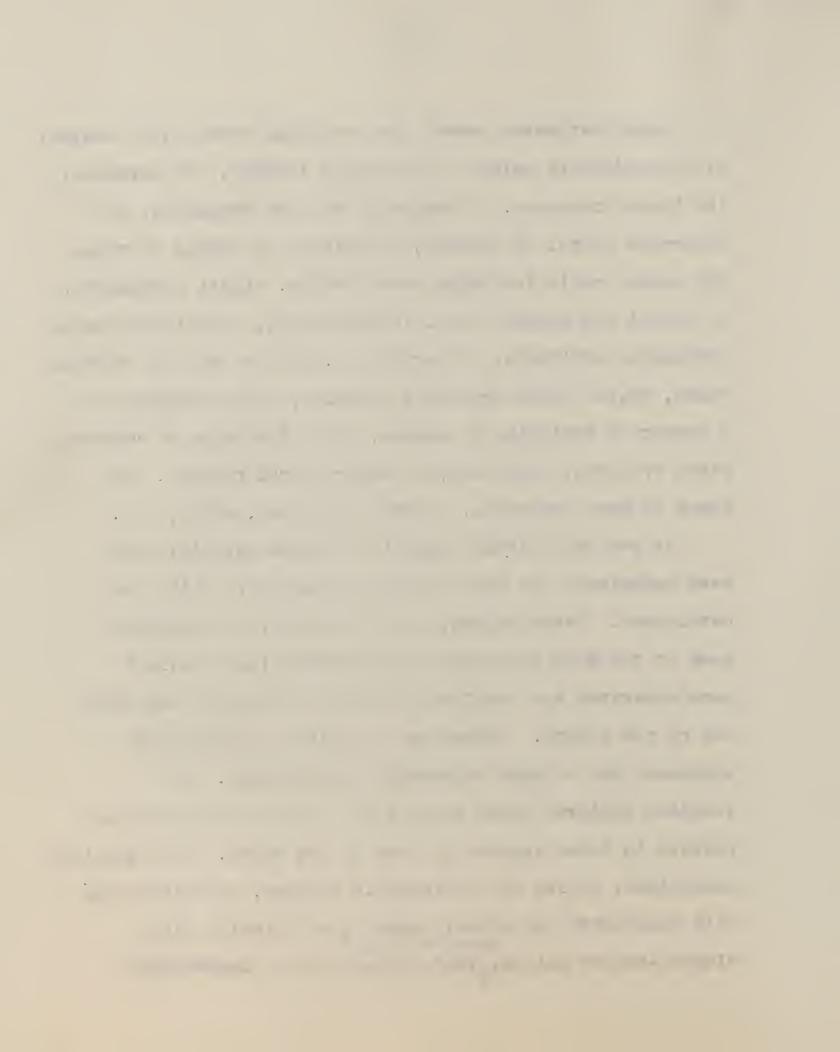


Chart and photograph:



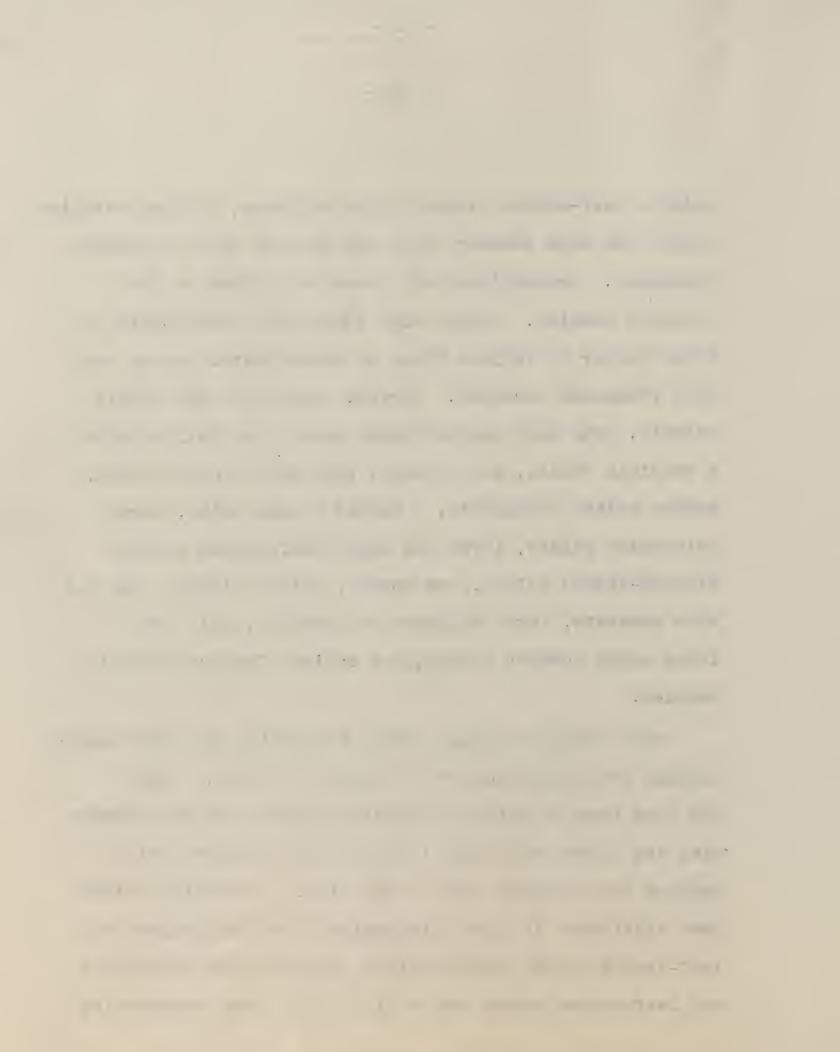
Rough estimates reveal that we found about 2,000 sherds, 1,000 projectile points or fragments thereof, 300 scrapers, 150 blade fragments, 50 choppers, 700 mat fragments, 200 cigarette butts, 25 baskets, 500 pieces of string or rope, 200 wooden tools including arrow shafts, atlatl foreshafts, an atlatl and pounded pegs, 10 bone tools, 400 miscellaneous perishable artifacts, 12 burials, 4,000 corn cobs of various races, 20,000 other fragments of maize, 6,000 fragments of a number of varieties of squash, 7,000 fragments of various kinds of beans, about 100,000 other floral remains, and about 90 bone fragments. (Total about 140,000 to 10,000).

As yet very little analysis of these materials has been undertaken and most of the specimens are still not catalogued. Nevertheless, Dr. Mangelsdorf has examined some of the corn and other domesticated plants while I have separated the artifacts as well as watched them come out of the ground. Therefore, I believe a preliminary statement may be made concerning the sequence. The earliest cultural phase comes from Zone K2 just above the gravels in three squares in back of the caves. This earliest occupation, called the Infiernillo Complex, contained some wild foodstuffs and animal bones in association with diamond-shaped points, leaf-shaped



points, leaf-shaped blades, large choppers, 2 large scraping planes and some checker woven and twilled mats and basket fragments. Occupations 2-5 (Zones G-J) makes up the Portales Complex. Though wild foodstuffs predominate, a large number of various kinds of domesticated squash and bean fragments occurred. Strings, coiled rod and bundle baskets, nets, many checker-woven mats, some twilled mats, a possible atlatl, cane spears, cane atlatl main shafts, wooden atlatl foreshafts, a barbed wooden point, large triangular points, large and small leaf-shaped points, diamond-shaped points, one mortar, antler flakers, end and side scrapers, large choppers or scrapers, and a few large crude scraper planes, are salient features of this complex.

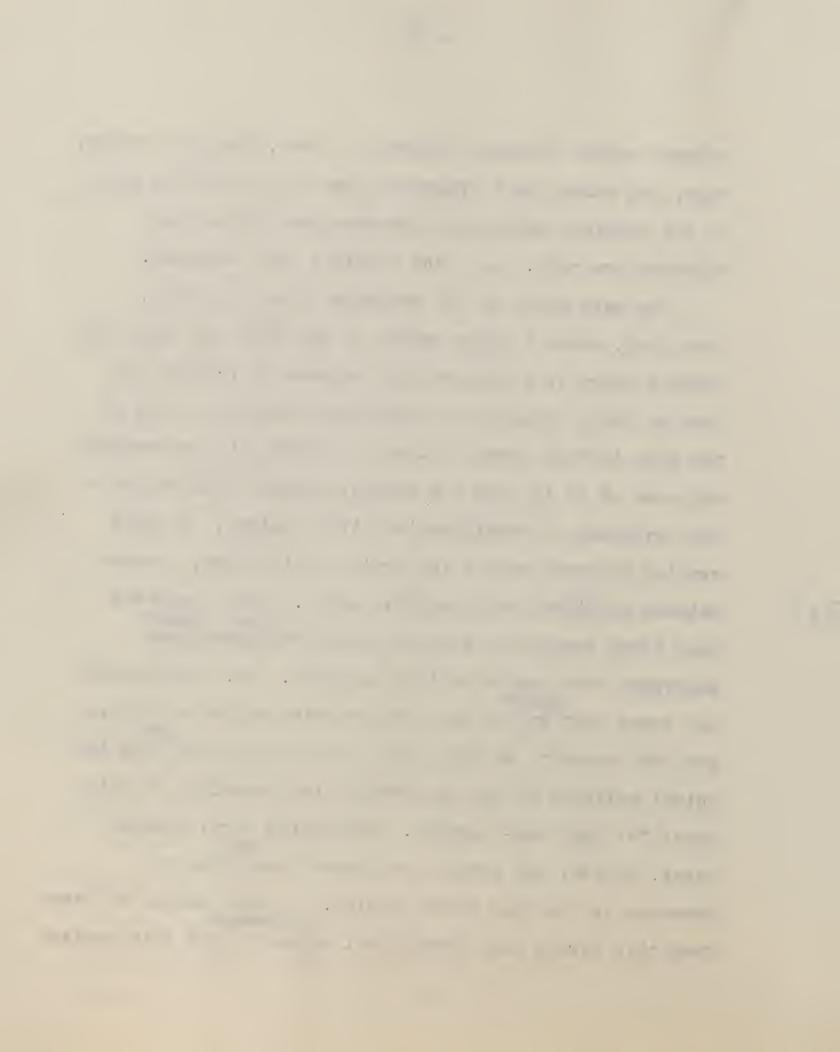
This Portales Complex seems to develop into the Guerra Complex of occupations 6 to 8 (Zones D3 to F2). Early Bat Cave type of maize and possibly gourds are now present with the squash and beans though wild foodstuffs still compose the greatest part of the diet. Projectile points have diminished in size with medium-sized triangular and leaf-shaped points predominating, though large triangular and leaf-shaped points occur along with large contracting



stemmed points (Langtry Stemmed?). Mats, baskets, string, rope, and atlat1 dart fragments seem to be much the same as the previous period but scrapers are smaller and choppers are rare. Also one possible mano occurred.

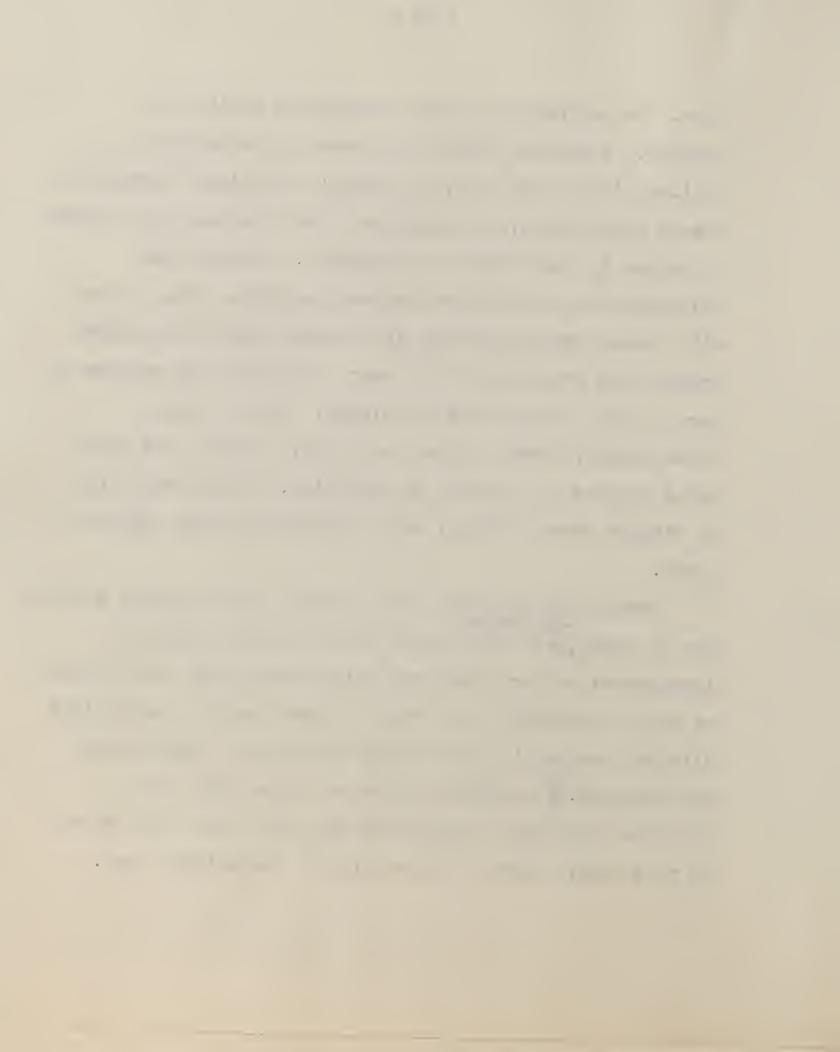
The next phase of our sequence in occupation 9, Zone D7-2, shows a large number of new artifact types and perhaps there is a temporal gap between it (called the Mesa de Guaje Complex) and the Guerra Complex. Most of the corn in this level is like the later Bat Cave variety but some of it is like the earlier material and few cobs show evidence of hybridization with teocinte. Of even greater interest were a few grains of teocinte, a cross between tripascum and primitive maize. This has never been found growing in eastern Mexico and never been recovered from archaeological deposits. Dr. Mangelsdorf has shown that it has been crossed with maize to improve the food capacity of that plant and I believe we have actual evidence of the importation (or breeding) of this grass for just that purpose. Beside the corn, gourds, beans, squash, and cotton are present and about as numerous as the wild plant remains. A large number of feces from this strata also should tell us much about this ancient

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diet. In artifacts the most significant addition is pottery. A cursory study of it shows it to be very similar, if not the same, as Ekholm's El Prisco (Period II) sherds from Panuco, and therefore about the same time period as Laguna in the Sierra de Tamaulipas. Medium-sized triangular and leaf-shaped projectile points occur, along with large straight-stemmed and notched projectile points. Atlatl dart fragments still occur. Scrapers are relatively rare as are choppers and big blades. Cotton cloth (loom woven?), nets, string, net bags, baskets, and woven water bottles of a number of varieties, twilled mats with or without woven designs, and a number of wooden artifacts occur.

Two of these, are facing each other with arms and legs interlocked and are above and below woven mat s with baskets on top of them, while the other two were in deep grass-lined pits and wrapped in mats tied up with rope. These are as yet unopened. It suspect that some of the ruins with El Prisco figurines and pottery from this area also belong to this Complex but we had no time to investigate them.



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The Palmillos Complex occurred in Zones Cl and C2 and represented the tenth occupation of the cave. Pottery of this complex was quite distinct as it often was polished and bore engraved decoration. Projectile points were distinctive in that they were usually triangular in outline with serrated edges and side notches, but larger stemmed and corner-notched ones did occur as did a few small triangular ones. Mainshafts reveal that these points tipped arrows but a few shafts are sufficiently large to suggest atlatl darts or spears. Manos and metates were present as were fragments of clay pipes. However, one of the most distinctive features of this complex was cane cigarette butts but other perishables include mats with designs, baskets, nets, loom-woven cotton cloths with coloured designs, string, rope, net bags, woven bands, large contumers baskets made with wooden rims and net bottoms, wooden pegs, and a number of other objects. Four burials were uncovered. The actual bodies and burial goods (including pottery) had been wrapped in a number of mats and bound tightly by rope and string. This bundle was then placed lengthwise in The containers backets made with a net bottom and wooden hoop rim with a tumpline. It in turn with its contents was buried in a grass-lined pit covered with slabs of rock and refuse.

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Agricultural products represented the bulk of the foodstuffs and included corn, beans, squash, gourds and chile, as well as tobacco and cotton. The corn probably can be divided into a number of races, most of which show teocinte intergression.

The Palmillas Complex is almost identical to that found at Buenavista, San Luis Potosi, by Du Solier and closely related to Elholm's Zaquil (IV) period from Panuco. The majority of the ruins of southwest Tamaulipas and the ruin on the hill just above this cave were of this period.

In Zone B, occupation 11-13, was the San Lorenzo Complex. Zone B, though relatively thin in the back of the cave, represented the bulk of the refuse near the mouth of the cave and contained a number (5) ayers or subdivisions. Pottery was fairly numerous and there are at least three kinds: a brushed ware, a smooth ware, and a corrugated ware (like some of the Southwest materials). Points were small and triangular, with or without side notches (and one has a side notch and a basal notch). Shafts show all to have been arrows and one possible fragment of a bow occurred. Mats, baskets, nets, string,

** . In the second 1-1-1-1-1-1 rope, cotton cloth, a spindle horl, an elbow clay pipe, leather, leather bags, and part of a harache were present along with a few large flat pebble scrapers or choppers. There were, also, a variety of worked wooden objects that I cannot identify as to use. Corn was the dominant food but beans, squash, chile, gourds, and tobacco occurred with the wild food remains. One burial was found, which was flexed on its side in a pit without its head and with an arrow in its ribs. It was covered by a mat. Materials similar to this complex have been found in camp sites and in other caves and seem related (ancestrally?) to the Los Angeles complex of the Sierra de Tamaulipas.

The fourteenth and fifteenth occupation in cave of

Zone A contained artifacts of the San Antonio Complex.

Small triangular arrow points and arrowshafts occurred

with crudely brushed and smoothed pottery. Scrapers and

choppers are fairly common. Mats, baskets, nets, string,

belts, braids, leather bags, and cotton cloth also eccur.

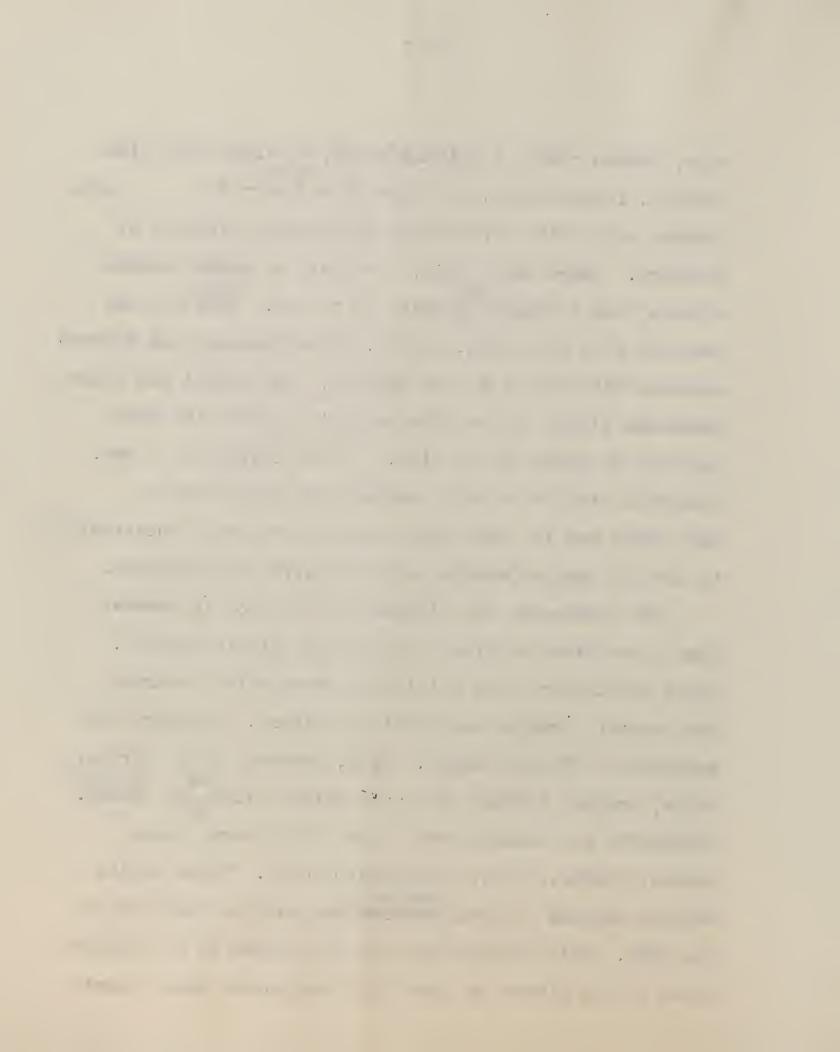
Foodstuffs are predominately wild though corn, beans,

squash, gourds, chile, and tobacco occur. Three bundle

burials wrapped in mats occurred against the back wall of

the cave. This complex seems to be related to Los Angeles

Focus of the Sierra de Tamaulipas and modern glaze sherds



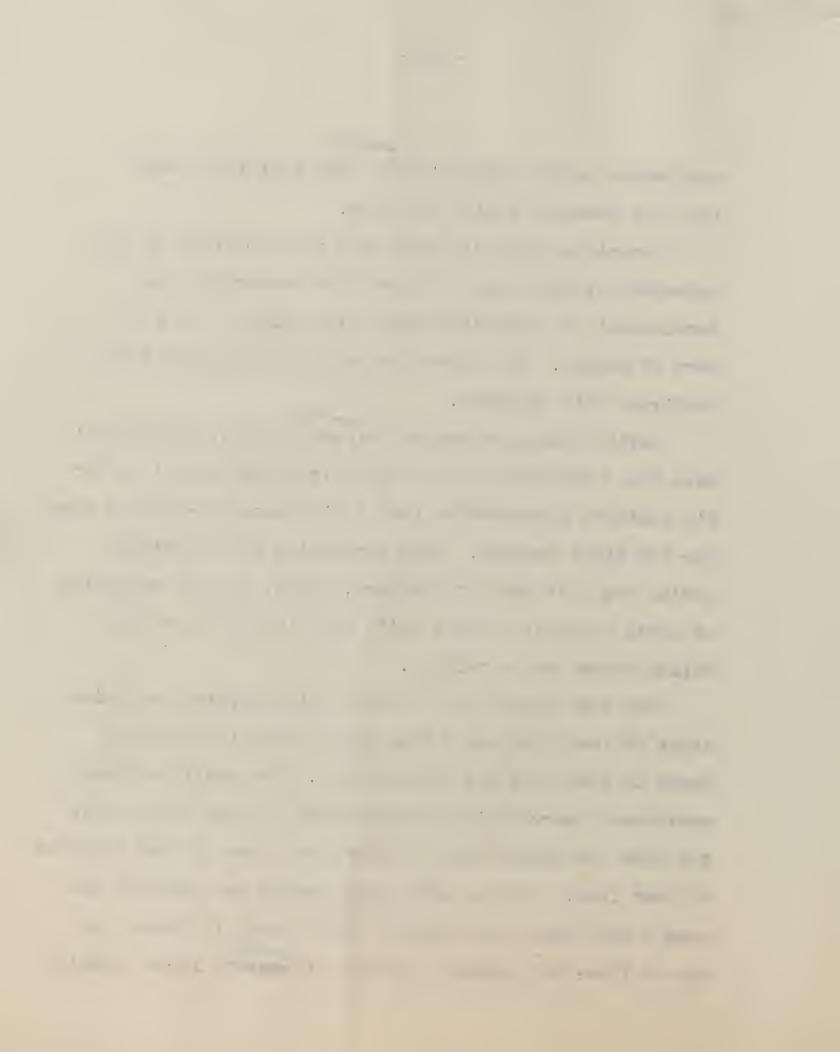
sheres

and Panuco Period (Ekholm's VI) show that it is very late and probably partly historic.

Materials from this cave gave us an outline of the sequence for this area and much data concerning the development of agriculture and "high culture" in this part of Mexico. The other excavations supplemented and confirmed this sequence.

David Helley excavated the second cave, Valenzuela's Cave (Tm c 248) and will be analysing those materials for his doctoral dissertation (and I will later re-analyse them for the final report). This excavation was undertaken during the last week of February, March, and the beginning of April and what I shall write here is based upon what Kelley showed me or told me.

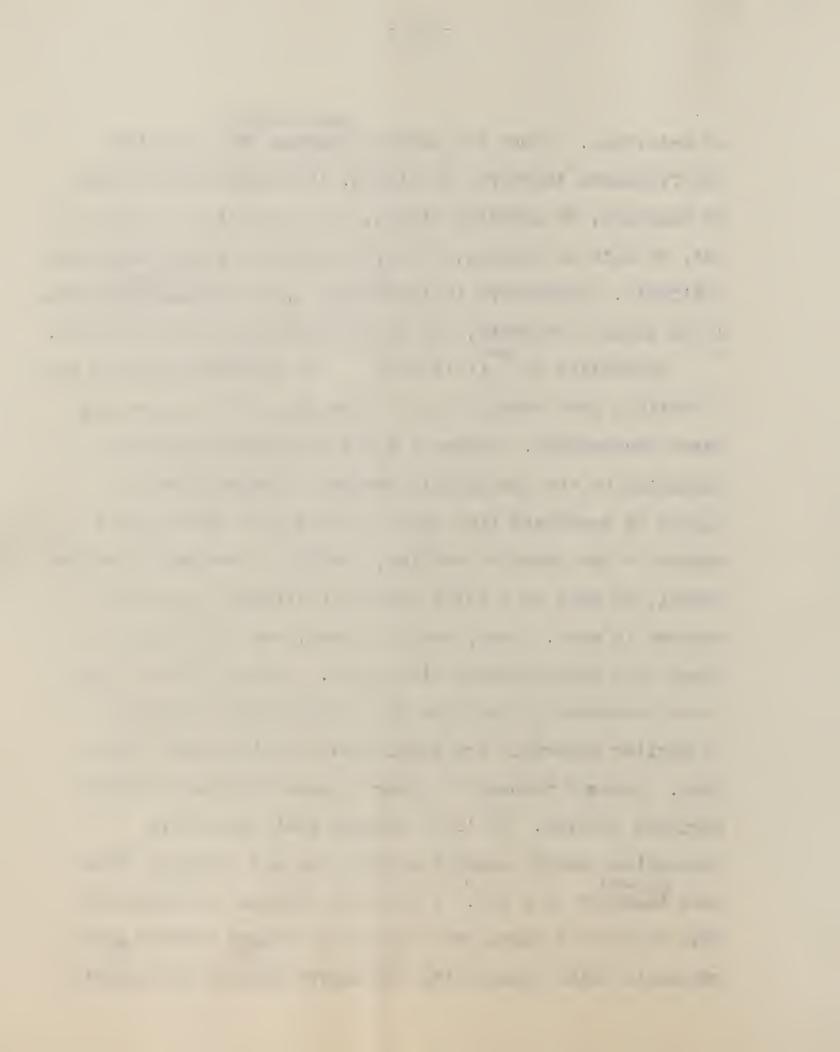
The cave itself has a double entrance, with one being about 25 feet wide and 8 feet high, while the other is about 15 feet wide and 15 feet high. The small entrance contained a narrow high passage about 30 feet long, while the wide one opened onto a large room about 30 feet wide and 40 feet long. For the most part, refuse was shallow, not over 3 feet deep, and usually about 2 feet in depth, and the 34 five-foot squares dug did not contain large amounts



were uncorred,

of materials. About 100 sherds occurred with 60 points (or fragments thereof), 40 blades, 170 large flat scrapers or choppers, 30 scraping planes, 100 fragments of string or net, 20 mats or baskets, a bow, and about 30 other perishable artifacts. Foodstuffs include about 2,000 beans, (fragments) 1,000 squash fragments, and about 25,000 wild plant remains.

Excavation by stripping of horizontal layers from a vertical face revealed that there were eight layers and seven occupations. Layers 1 and 2 contained artifacts belonging to the San Antonio Complex. Beside having a number of artifacts like those of Tm c 247, there were a number of new types of matting, netting, a bow, and a bundle burial, as well as a child burial in sitting position wrapped in mats. Corn, beans, squash, and cotton appear along with predominately wild foods. Unfortunately, these later occupants of the cave dug a whole series of pits so earlier materials are found mixed in with these later Layers 3 through 7 appear to have artifacts of the Portales Complex. It is my opinion that these five occupations start somewhat earlier and end somewhat later than these, of Tm c 247. I say this because in Valenzuela Cave in Layer 3 there are a number of Langty Stemmed Boint fragments which appear with the Guerra Complex in Romero's



Cave, while the lowest levels of Valenzuela Cave have a large number of choppers, scraping planes and diamond-shaped points than does the Portales of the nearby cave. In fact it may be that analysis will justify the division of the Portales Complex into two complexes but such is a problem for future work. Levels 5 to 7 have, besides stone materials, a number of mats, baskets, nets, and string that do not appear at the other cave, as well as a large amount of bone material, fossilized and unfossilized (including some extremely large deer(?) teeth).

Though squash and beans are present in all these Portales levels, wild foodstuffs are dominant.

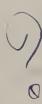
The final cave excavated, Tm c 247, was called Of o de Aqua Cave and was dug during April. This cave was about 30 feet wide and 15 feet high at its mouth and extended back over 100 feet. Here eleven five-foot squares were removed to about a depth of six feet, though in one place refuse was seven feet deep. Originally we tried to strip off actual strata but the layers were so confusing that most of the cave was dug in arbitrary six-inch levels. Level 1 contained a few San Antonio Complex sherds, while levels 2 through 6 had Palmillas Complex artifacts as well as preserved vegetable materials including some very well-made

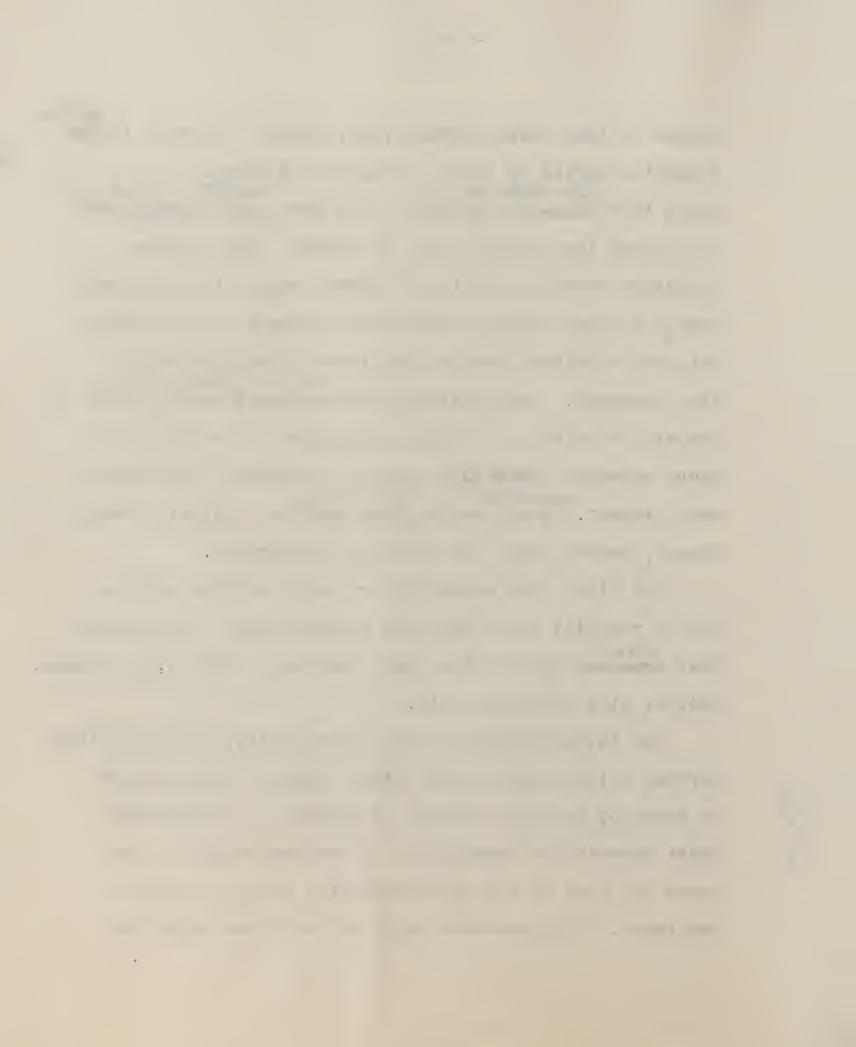
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pieces of loom woven cotton cloth. Levels 7 through 13 mes a complex series of lenses of ash and charcoal areas that appeared and then a few feet away disappeared or changed into another type of strata. This refuse contained Portales Complex artifacts and, as in Valenzuela Cave, the heavy choppers were more frequent at the bottom, but here a pointed stemmed and large triangular points also occurred. One hundred sherds occurred as did about 75 projectile points, 10 blades, and about 150 choppers or heavy scrapers, while Only about 25 perishable artifacts were present. One thousand food remains, including corn, squash, beans, bone, and wild plant materials.

The final site excavated or tested was the ruin on top of the hill above the cave near our camp. Here seven test transfer about 2 feet deep uncovered about 4,000 sherds, points, pipe fragments, etc.

The investigations in the Sierra Madre, beside yielding surface collections from 62 sites, reveal a sequence of seven or possible artifact complexes. The following chart reveals the correlation of various strata of the caves and some of the characteristics of the cultural complexes. This sequence tells us much concerning the



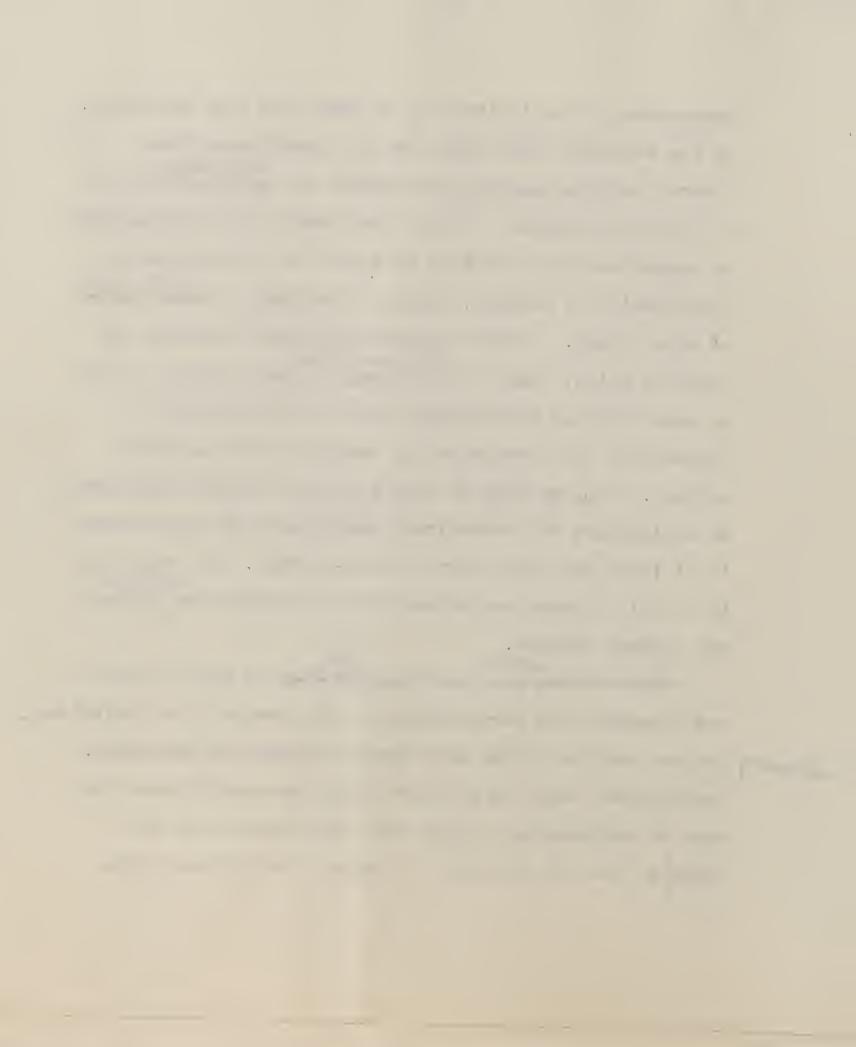


development of agriculture in at least one part of Mexico. On the earliest level there are no domesticated food and perhaps plants, next we see the introduction of, or domestication of, beans and squash. This is followed by the introduction of gourds and Bat Cave type of corn. At the time of the introduction of pottery, cotton, teocinte, and other types of corn appear. A still later horizon sees tobacco, and the assemblage possibly chile, added to this host of food plants. As may be seen from the accompanying chart, these changes in agriculture are accompanied by changes in the material culture. Thus we seem to have some data on the development of agriculture and concomitant development of civilization in at least one small part of Meso-America. How true this ma delailed is of all of Meso-America can only be answered by analysis and further studies.

The question now remains, what must be done? First and foremost, the stratigraphy of the caves must be studied and the artifacts from each layer analysed and described.

Furthermore, once the artifact types are established, they must be compared with those from other areas such as Coahula, the Big Bend area of Texas, the Southwest, the

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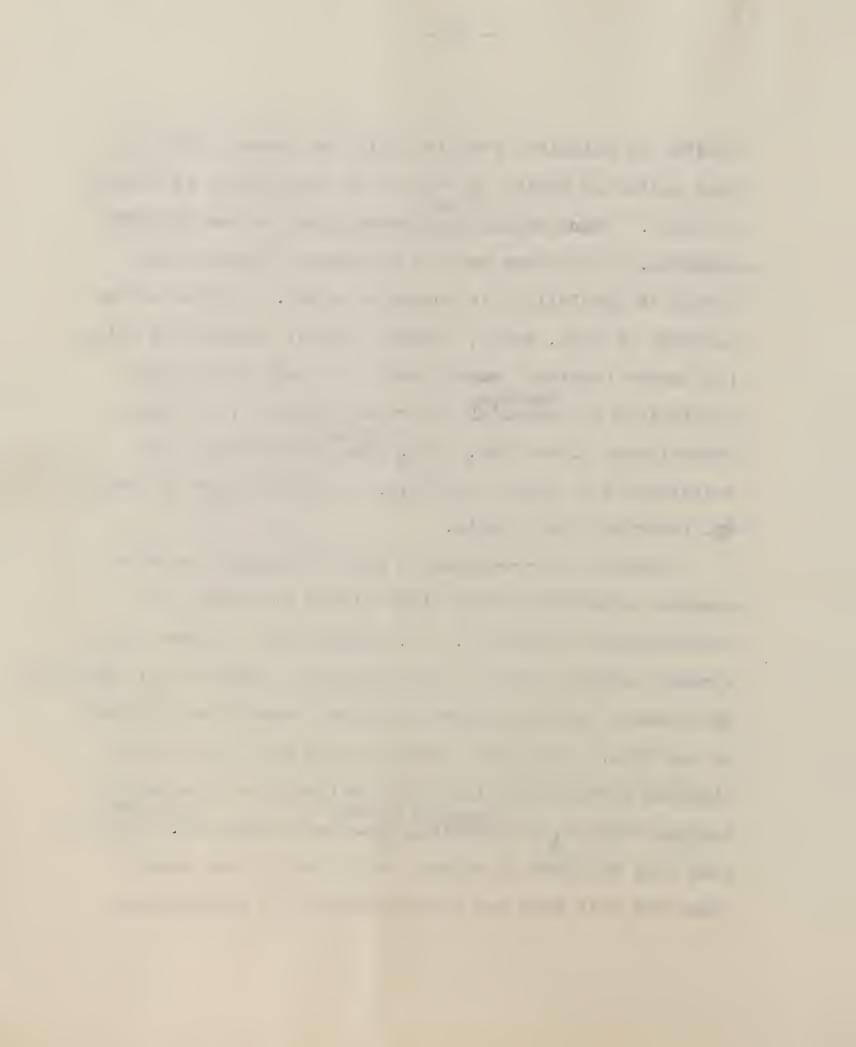
States (and perhaps even Huaca Preta of the Peruvian coast).

Furthermore, these artifacts must be arranged into artifact complexes representing the material culture of each occupation. The them artifact complexes must be compared with one another to determine culture continuity (or the lack of it) as well as compared with those from other areas, in order to ascertain cultural relationships (migration, diffusion, etc.) These studies are the normal activities of archaeologists and I shall be doing this next year. I will a compared (though I expect to receive the assistance of David Kelley, who will study Valenzuelas cave, and hints from specialists on cotton weaving, basketry, string, and the like).

Much of what must be done is, however, out of the hands of the archaeologists. Dates of the occupations must come from an analysis of the radio activity of Carbon 14 was the radio activity of Carbon 14 by Muclear Physicists. The ancient fauna of the various occupations can only be determined by analysis of bone materials by zoologists. The soils of the various strata should be studied by pedologists with an eye to discovering the ancient climate as well as the various agents of deposition. The ancient flora of each occupation must be

this region of Mexico as well as by specialists in pollen analysis. There should be further check on the previous elimates. Then there must be a number of studies by a series of specialists in economic botany. Studies of the sequence of corn, beans, squash, gourds, tobacco and chile (and maybe tomatoes) which should not only allow these specialists to establish new races (extinct?) of these domesticated plants but, also give considerable data concerning the origin, evolution, or development of these

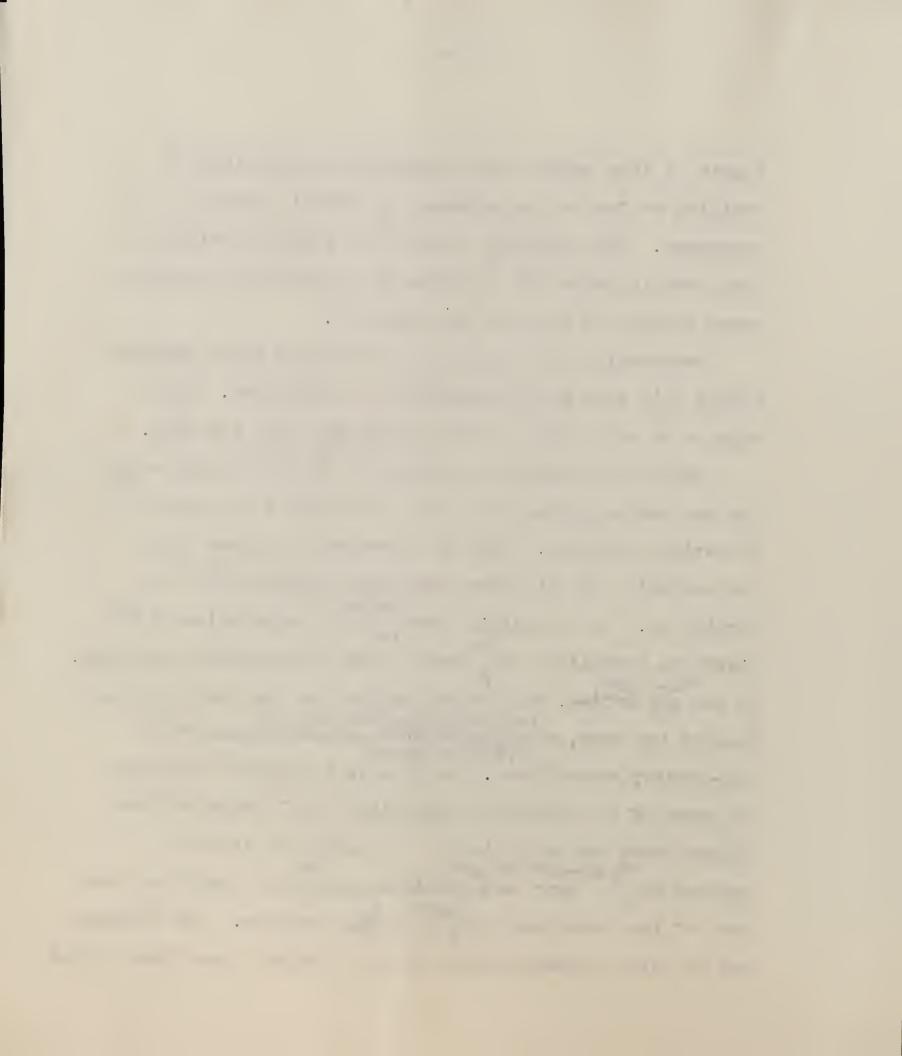
Already some arrangements have been made for these numerous specialists from other fields to examine our archaeological materials. Dr. Mangelsdorf, in fact, has already briefly looked at the corn, and a number of his provided hypotheses, based on genetic studies, seem to be verified by our data. His theory that Bat Cave corn is an early highland variant of maize and Primitive Nal-tel an early lowland variant is certainly true for Tamaulipas. His idea that teocinte is crossed with corn to form modern races and that corn was domesticated for a considerable



length of time before this hybridization certainly is verified as far as the sequence of Romero's Cave is concerned. The antiquity of corn and possible origin of some corn in Mexico //s suggested by Mangelsdorf certainly seems correct in terms of our sequence.

Eventually, all this mass of data from these numerous fields will have to be correlated and published. This I hope to do and I know I will thoroughly enjoy the task.

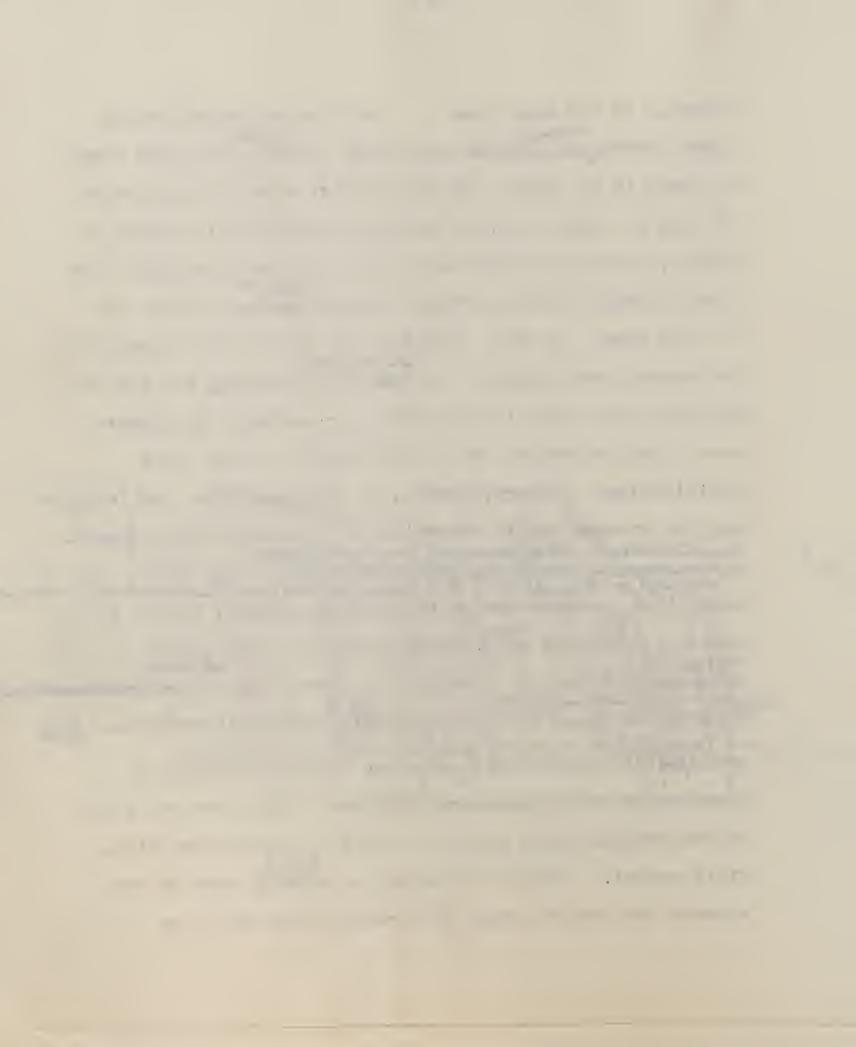
Beside the practical problems of finishing this study, the new archaeological data has given rise to a series of historical problems. Some of these may be solved with the analysis, but I'm sure even more questions will be turning up. On a specific level is the correlation of ML Sierra de Tamaulipas and Sierre Madre of Tamaulipas sequence. As one may notice, the pottery periods of the two areas are roughly the same, and the problems are concerning the of the two regions. pre-pottery agriculture, In regards to material culture, La Perra of the Sierra de Tamaulipas and Portales of the Sierre Madre are very similar and certainly closely the formitue muze of related but La Perra has primitive corn less primitive than that of the Guerra Culture following Portales. Are Portales and La Perra contemporaneous or is La Perra a very long period



starting at the same time as Portales and extending

after Guerra and getting corn after Guerra Why were there no beans in La Perra? If the Bat Cave corn is 5,600 years old and La Perra is 4,445 years old according to Carbon 14 dating, how old are the Guerra and Portales materials? The corn materials would certainly suggest it is earlier, but is this true? In fact, just how old is this first bean does it happen and squash agriculture? How came that tobacco, and the bow and arrow are older in New Mexico, a seemingly peripheral area, than in Mexico, one of the centers of New Morld civilization? If Harx, Engels, V. Gordon Childe, Leslie White, and the other economic determinists are correct that agriculture is one of the basic causes of a neolithic manifested in a the great ourge of ekaboration and completity in human society tousture, revolution, a rapid change in material culture, how is it that in Taraulipas corn, beans and squash agriculture seemingly existed for thousands of years without great of material changes, and that when the "neolithic revolution" unperfact cultural development, uthis one (Rpresented by Laguna remains) occurred it was not accompanied by the introduction of significant new agricultural products? These are but a few of the problems that come to my mind as I write the final field report. Perhaps our materials centain some of the answers and further study will reveal them, but I am

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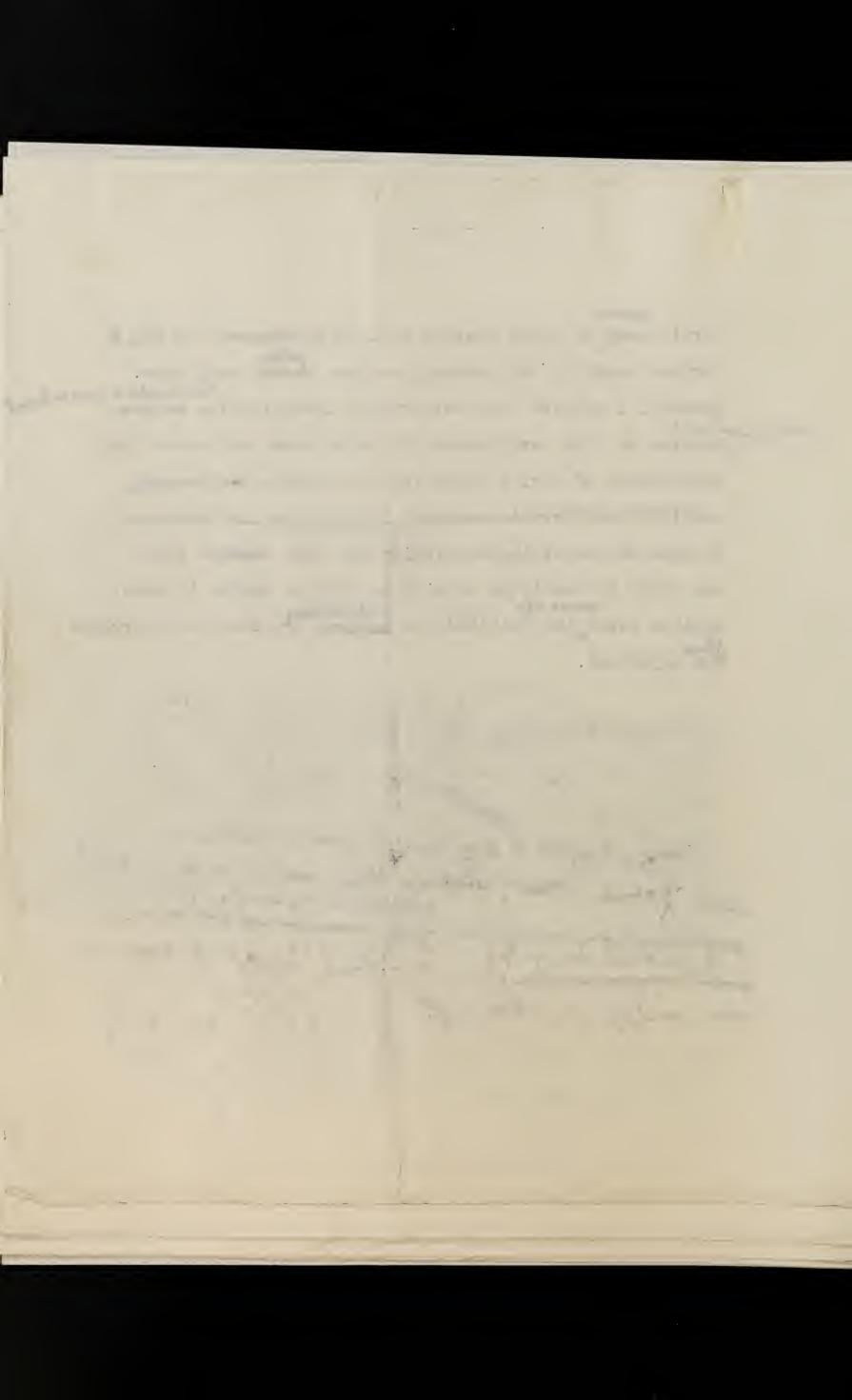
further study of our present data may reveal many more.

However, I believe that our present investigation of the problem of "the development of agriculture and concomitant development of civilization in Meso-America has brought to light considerable relevant information that will have bearing on its ultimate solution and that perhaps when our study is completed we will be able to define in more concise terms the multitude of smaller problems that surround this major one.

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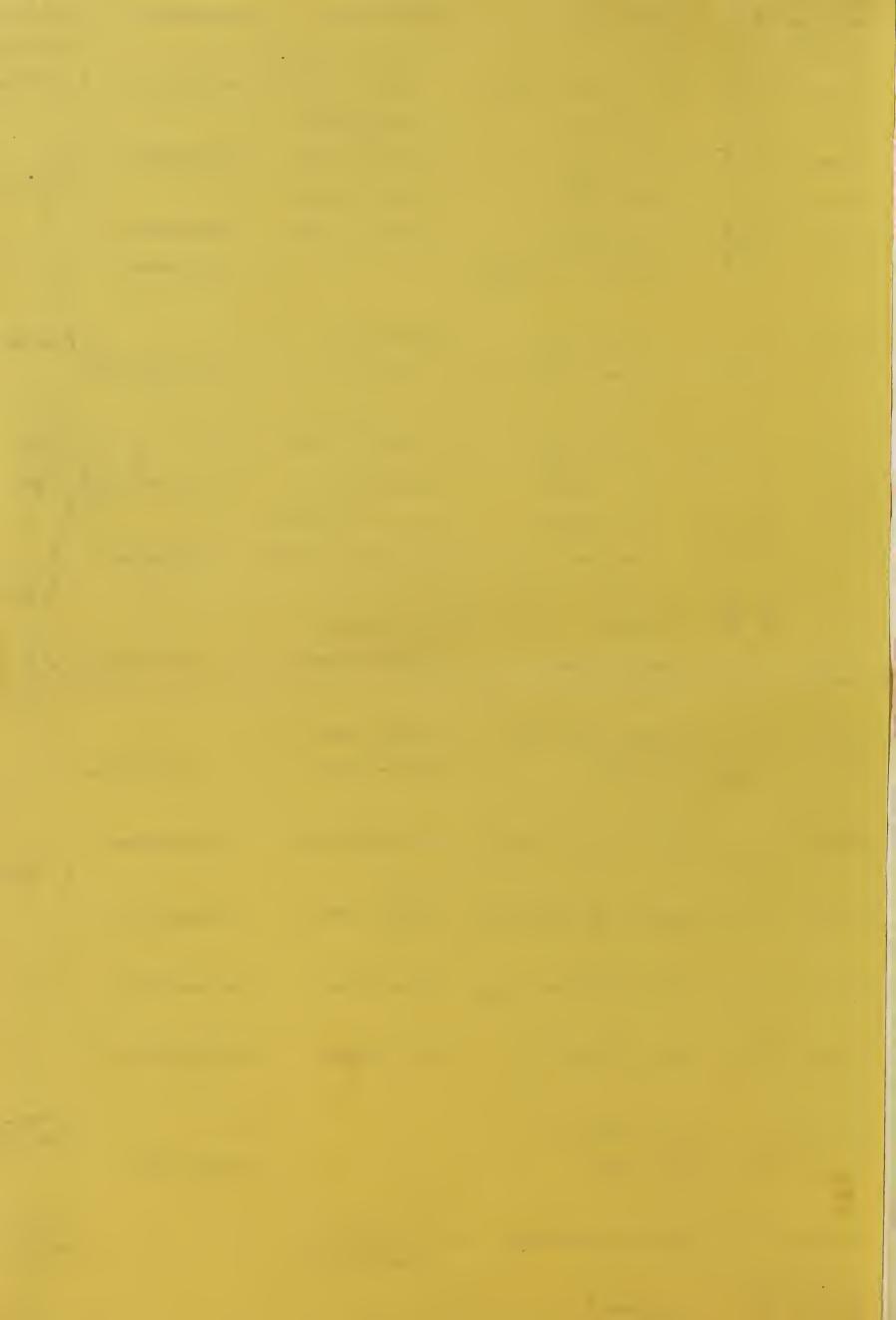
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